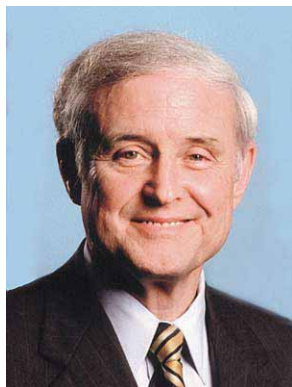




A Message from the Director



It is my pleasure to present this review of achievements by the Johnson Space Center (JSC) for 2001. We hope it goes far towards representing the Center's progress, operations and community impact throughout the year. Our workforce derives immeasurable satisfaction and motivation from the many

successes of our programs. We hope to share some of that positive energy with you in the coming pages.

I am honored to report that we have successfully completed our first full year of "crewed" operations on board the International Space Station in 2001, bringing the space station to life with a record-setting assembly schedule – a schedule that we met. Last year's missions resulted in the station gaining self-sufficiency and becoming fully operational, and for the first time in decades, JSC supported two programs simultaneously. We have safely supported flying an International Space Station crew 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week, 365-days-a-year, while continuing to work space shuttle missions. One of the tangible results has been a tremendous sense of accomplishment for the teams at JSC; making such difficulties look routine is a testament to the Center's workforce and the amount of teamwork built around the Agency for those involved in our two flight programs.

A special highlight this past year was the establishment of JSC's Space Launch Initiative Office. Through its auspices, we will manage research and development of technologies unique to flying humans

in space as part of NASA's almost \$5 billion Space Launch Initiative, helping us to stay at the forefront of human spaceflight. This new office at JSC will assist in developing technologies for the next reusable human spacecraft, work that could mean hundreds of millions of dollars of research efforts managed from Houston over the next few years.

Although we at JSC were not as directly affected as some by the events that occurred on September 11th, we participated through the crewmembers aboard Space Shuttle *Endeavour* and the International Space Station as they helped to mark the three-month anniversary of the attacks in a nationwide remembrance. Additionally, *Endeavour* orbited the Earth with 6,000 small American flags that were part of the Agency's "Flags for Heroes and Families" program. Also aboard the shuttle were three large U.S. and Marine Corps flags, which had been flying at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and the Pennsylvania State Capitol during the attacks.

As I depart JSC and return to Stennis Space Center, I am simultaneously saddened over my own departure from friendships begun and friendships strengthened this past year, and yet heartened by the incoming leadership of Jefferson D. Howell, Jr. I know Jeff Howell will do well by NASA and, in particular, the wonderful people at JSC.

And while I am looking forward to returning to my home state and my family, I will cherish my status as a JSC alumni and my good fortune at being Center Director for a wonderful group of dedicated spaceflight professionals. Thanks for the memories, JSC; it has been a wonderful year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Bortner".

